

Montana Public Service Commission 1701 Prospect Avenue PO Box 202601 Helena MT 59620-2601

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PSC TO HOLD HEARING TO DECIDE ALLOCATION OF NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S UNIVERSAL SYSTEM BENEFITS FUNDS

The state Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing October 4 in Helena concerning NorthWestern Energy's allocations of its universal system benefits funds.

The hearing will begin at 1:30 pm in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue.

State law requires electric and natural gas utilities to collect universal system benefits charges from their customers for various public purposes. Electric utilities' USB programs must include energy conservation, market transformation, renewable resources and low-income weatherization and bill payment assistance. Natural gas utilities' USB programs must provide low-income weatherization and bill payment assistance.

The result of the proceeding will be the Commission's direction to NorthWestern Energy concerning the specific allocation of those USB funds to the various public purposes for which they were collected.

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